

PICTURE THIS PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS

with Rina Sjardin-Thompson and Neil Protheroe

VENICE AND THE DOLOMITES

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL 10 DAY PHOTOGRAPHY
EXPERIENCE IN THE BEAUTIFUL CITY OF VENICE AND THE
MAGNIFICENT ITALIAN DOLOMITES





TRIP ESSENTIALS



11 - 21 June 2024



Venice, Italy



10 Days, 10 Nights



Group Size 8 Max



Fitness Level: Easy-Moderate



\$ 11,995 NZD

HIGHLIGHTS

Venice, the City of Doges with its magnificent Gothic and Renaissance architecture and maze of canals, is a photographer's paradise. We will spend three nights here, photographing some of the city's famous landmarks in the warm soft light of the early morning and again venturing out after dark to shoot captivating street scenes when the crowds of summer tourists have left them. Then, onwards to the Dolomites, one of the most spectacular and easily-accessed mountain ranges on earth. Based in two centres, we will spend six days exploring remote alpine villages with their beautiful old churches, rifugios, lush green meadows, spectacular lakes and the extraordinary rugged peaks which tower above and dominate the landscape around us.

- Photographing Venice landmarks and street scenes in early morning light and at night: Piazza San Marco, Rialto Bridge and Grand Canal, the Doge's Palace, Basilica di San Marco, Church of Santa Maria della Salute, Bridge of Sighs, the gondolas and gondoliers, and much more
- An afternoon visit to the island village of Burano
- The Dolomites - spectacular mountain beauty surrounding historic towns and villages including Santa Maddalena, Selva di Cadore, Colfosco, Ortisei and many more
- Unforgettable photographic locations and opportunities



OUTLINE ITINERARY

Venice airport code is VCE. The most direct route from New Zealand is to fly with Emirates via Dubai, otherwise plan connections through Rome, London or Paris. Non-stop flights from the USA are operated by Delta, American Airlines and United from New York, Atlanta and Philadelphia.

We strongly recommend arriving in Europe a few days before our trip starts, to recover from travel fatigue.

There is no road traffic in Venice. A bus service operates between the airport and the city, after which you will need to take a water ferry/taxi to reach the hotel; a more expensive water taxi service also runs from the airport.

Tuesday 11 June 2024

We'll meet at our 4* central Venice hotel at 4.00pm today, for check-in, introductions, and a trip briefing before enjoying an early group dinner and our first after-dark shoot around the famous Piazza San Marco.



Wednesday 12 June

We'll be up early for a sunrise shoot at the Grand Canal, and the landmark Rialto Bridge, a short walk from our hotel. At this time of the day there is little activity on the canal and very few people around.



Once the city begins to come to life, we will return to our hotel for breakfast and enjoy some downtime. In the early afternoon we'll catch a ferry to the colourful fishing village and island of Burano, where we will stay for dinner. Those wishing to explore some more after dark are welcome to do so, or just catch an early night!



Thursday 13 June

An early start to shoot from the Ponte dell'Accademia and its spectacular view of the Grand Canal and the famous church of Santa Maria della Salute. After breakfast we will rest again, and then spend a few hours in the late afternoon conducting an interactive image review and critique session. After dinner at a local restaurant, we'll spend a couple of hours exploring other parts of the city and photographing a myriad of compositions practising long exposure and also black and white conversion techniques.



Friday 14 June

Another early morning shoot for those with the energy! After breakfast we will check out and head back out to the airport using pre-arranged private water taxis. Here we will transfer to our rented minibus and SUV for onward travel to the Dolomites. We'll be there in time for an early-afternoon lunch.

Saturday 15 June - Tuesday 17 June

We'll spend these days photographing the spectacular mountains and villages around the town of Cortina, including the stunning Passo di Giau, the Cinque Torri, Lago di Limides, Lago di Braies, the famous Tre Cime, and more.



Tuesday 18 June - Thursday 20 June

After breakfast and check-out, we'll transfer to our next accommodation in the area around Santa Cristina. This will be our base for the next three nights, exploring the stunning Passo Gardena, the villages of Val di Funes, the 2,500m mountain of Seceda (accessed by Lago di Carezza and much more).

Friday 21 June

We'll check out of our hotel after breakfast this morning and head back to Venice. Drop off will be at the airport. Onward travel plans can be made from 2pm today.

WHAT TO EXPECT ON THIS TRIP

- magnificent Gothic and Renaissance architecture, waterways, squares, churches and historic homes in one of the world's greatest cities
- spectacular mountain landscapes, remote villages and lakes
- 4* hotels in Venice and Santa Cristina
- no major walks so suitable for most fitness levels*
- two of our popular Lightroom image review sessions
- rest time in the middle of the day when possible - it's hot, and busy!
- great food and wine in a variety of restaurants
- once-in-a-lifetime photography opportunities
- convivial social times with a small group of like-minded photographers

* *Note: Venice is a traffic-free city and we will be exploring it on foot. Those wanting to see it all can expect to cover at least 10,000 steps each day - that's around 8 kilometres or 5 miles.*

Although the Dolomites is a world-renowned centre for hiking and tramping, our itinerary has been designed to maximise the photographic opportunities without having to hike longer distances and/or over mountain trails. Some walks are involved for one or two locations but only moderate fitness is needed to do them, and they are entirely optional.



INCLUSIONS

- two photography tutors
- two Lightroom image reviews
- road transportation in Italy**
- excursion transportation
- all accommodation on a **single occupancy (own room) basis**
- breakfast and dinner daily
- cable car/chair lift tickets

NOT INCLUDED

- travel to Venice, Italy
- transfer from airport to hotel in Venice
- trip and equipment insurance
- lunches and snacks
- alcoholic beverages
- anything else not listed under 'inclusions'

** excludes transfers from Venice airport to hotel

TOUR COSTS

To secure your place on this tour and to meet our obligations to our service providers we require a deposit of \$3,000 NZD. The balance of \$8,995 NZD is payable no later than 31 March 2024. Payments should be made by bank transfer.

Clients from outside New Zealand, please contact us for bank transfer payment options. We can accept payments in US dollars and Euros.

Your deposit is due upon booking and will secure your place for the trip.

BANK DETAILS (for New Zealand clients)

PICTURE THIS ITALY 02-0856-0043614-005

Please use **VENICE** as the credit reference.



CANCELLATION

CANCELLATION BY US

Whilst PICTURE THIS will make every effort to operate the trip once confirmed, we do reserve the right to cancel or change it at any time due to insufficient bookings and/or reasons beyond our control that might create unsafe or undesirable travel conditions for the participants, including travel and border restrictions imposed on visitors to Europe.

In such case, a full and immediate refund will be issued. However, the financial liability of PICTURE THIS shall be limited to the amount paid to us for the trip only and shall not be extended to cover any other associated travel costs incurred (e.g. non-refundable air tickets, visa fees if applicable, clothing, equipment, miscellaneous transportation costs, medical expenses, travel insurance premiums, etc.) We recommend that you defer the purchase of air tickets until such time that we confirm the tour is viable and will be going ahead.

CANCELLATION BY YOU

We understand that signing up for this tour requires advance commitment, and also that things can happen unforeseeably that may force you to cancel. As organisers, we also have to make advance commitments to our service providers and so based on the cancellation date, the following cancellation terms will apply:

- cancellation more than 180 days before the tour start date: full refund of any payments made
- cancellation between 179 and 90 days before the tour start date: 50% refund of any payments made
- cancellation within 90 days of the start of the tour: no refund.

If we are able to re-fill your place on the tour, we will refund 100% of all monies paid irrespective of the cancellation date.



INSURANCE

You are responsible for arranging your own travel insurance and cover for loss or damage to your camera equipment and other possessions. It is also important to be aware of the change/refund conditions attached to your air tickets, as we are not responsible for any loss caused by disruption to our planned itinerary caused by travel restrictions, cancellations or other related issues.

MONEY

The currency in Italy is the Euro (€). Major credit cards are accepted almost universally and contactless card payments are common place. Cash is also commonly used for small purchases such as coffee, in bakeries, laundrettes etc.

CLIMATE AND TOURISM

Our trip coincides with the start of the summer tourism season. Daytime temperatures can be hot, often over 30°C (86°F), and evenings are also very warm. Our accommodations are air-conditioned. In the mountains temperatures are cooler by day and night.

The most popular visitor destinations will be busy at this time of the year but as photographers we will be out early most mornings, and we should enjoy plenty of moments away from the crowds. Venice in particular is one of the world's most popular visitor destinations and it will be busy and bustling during daylight hours.

FOOD AND DRINK

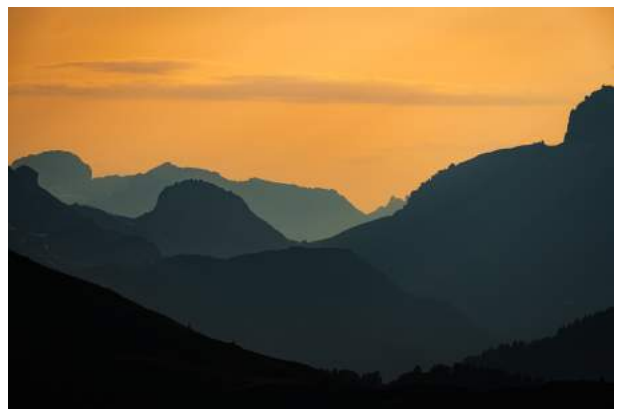
Italy is renowned for its gastronomy. There are plenty of restaurant choices in each of our locations. Normally we would suggest opting for a light sandwich or salad lunch whilst we are out, reserving the more substantial meal of the day for dinner. For reference, prices are largely similar to those in New Zealand restaurants and cafés. Please let us know of any dietary restrictions or requirements you may have.



GALLERY

A small selection of images of some of the places we'll visit.





OTHER QUESTIONS

Please don't hesitate to [email us](#) with any questions you'd like to ask or visit our [website](#).